

Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-15 and add new claims 16-17, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~An apparatus for the interstitial coagulation of tissues, ~~with at least one electrode (10) by way of which a HF coagulation current can be conducted into the tissue, wherein the electrode (10) is constructed as~~comprising a three-dimensional body that can be expanded to various states of expansion, or is attached to such a body (14), so that by continuous or and at least one electrode adapted to conduct an HF coagulation current into said tissue, the electrode forming at least a part of said three-dimensional body such that by one of continuous and stepwise expansion of [[the]] said body (10, 14) the ~~said electrode (10)~~ can be kept in constant electrical contact with the tissue during coagulation.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a control device ~~[(3)]~~ is provided for controlling the ~~[[state]]~~degree of expansion of the body (10, 14) ~~in dependence~~dependent on ~~[[the]]~~said coagulation current.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, ~~in particular according to Claim 2, characterized in that the~~wherein said control device (3) ~~is disposed and constructed so as is adapted to enable an adjustment of a current density of [[the]]~~said coagulation current between said electrode ~~[(10)]~~ and said tissue.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular~~The apparatus according to Claim 3, ~~characterized in that the~~wherein said control device (3) ~~is designed so that~~permits the current density ~~[[can]]~~ to be adjusted independently of the ~~[[state]]~~degree of expansion.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, ~~characterized in that~~Claim 1, wherein measurement devices

~~[[(-4)]]~~ are provided for detecting the state of expansion of ~~the~~said three-dimensional body ~~(10, 14)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to ~~one of the preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that the~~Claim 1, wherein said electrode comprises a treatment electrode~~[[(-10)]]~~ that is at least partially permeable to liquid and that can be brought into contact with a section of ~~[[the]]~~said tissue, ~~as well as a~~ and comprising a liquid-supply device ~~(20) for liquid~~ through which an electrically conductive liquid can be delivered to ~~[[the]]~~said treatment electrode ~~[[(-10)]]~~, and a current supply device ~~(30, 31)~~ adapted to deliver ~~[[the]]~~said HF coagulation current to ~~[[the]]~~said treatment electrode ~~[[(-10)]]~~ in such a way that ~~[[the]]~~said HF treatment current ~~can be~~is conducted to the liquid that is passing through the treatment electrode~~[[(-10)]]~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular~~The apparatus according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that the~~wherein said treatment electrode ~~[[(-10)]]~~ comprises one of an elastically stretchable ~~[[(-)]]~~ and an unfoldable surface element ~~(11) on the inside (12) of which, i.e. the side opposite the tissue, there is disposed~~that defines an interior space ~~[[(-13)]]~~ to which an internal pressure can be applied ~~so that the~~to expand said surface element ~~(11) can be expanded~~ by increasing the internal pressure.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular~~The apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that the~~wherein said surface element ~~(11) is shaped like~~is in the form of one of a ring ~~[[(-)]]~~ and a sphere.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 6—8,~~
~~characterized in that the~~The apparatus according to Claim 6, ~~wherein said~~ treatment electrode ~~(10, 10')~~ is constructed in the ~~[[shape]]~~ form of a balloon catheter.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 7—9,~~

~~characterized in that the~~The apparatus according to Claims 7, wherein said interior space (13) is adapted to be filled with [[the]] said electrically conductive liquid.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 6—10,~~
~~characterized in that the~~The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said electrically conductive liquid comprises one of polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), a surfactant [[or]] and a similar means of changing the viscosity of [[the]] said electrically conductive liquid.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 6—11,~~
~~characterized in that the treatment electrode (10, 10') comprises a film, a felt or a woven fabric and preferably~~The apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said treatment electrode is made of a thermally stable material, in particular a tetrafluoroethylene material. in the form of one of a film, a felt and a woven fabric.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 7—12,~~
~~characterized in that the interior space (13) comprises~~The apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said interior space is enclosed by an expandable auxiliary body [[(14)]] that is hydraulically separated from [[the]] said electrically conductive liquid, [[the]] and said surface element (11) preferably beingis constructed in several layers ~~so~~such that in an inner layer [[(15)]] liquid can be conducted in the ~~surface~~a direction [[while]] towards an outer surface of the element and in an outer layer [[(16)]] liquid can be conducted in a direction perpendicular to the surface direction, and preferably between the inner layer (15) and the outer layer (16) a partition layer (17) with a greater resistance to flow is disposed.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized byClaim 6, wherein a suction device (22, 23) is provided to suck away (excess) liquid.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that theClaim 1, wherein said electrode (10)

~~is constructed so that~~ is adapted to be supplied with a cutting current ~~can be applied to it.~~

16. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said thermally stable material is comprised of tetrafluoroethylene.

17. (New) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, wherein a partition layer with a greater resistance to liquid flow than said inner layer is disposed between said inner layer and said outer layer.